

Economic Regeneration and Leisure Committee

Member Agenda Item Request from Cllr Brian Clark: Consideration of a Pump Track Facility in the Borough

Introduction:

1. There has been much emphasis on outside pursuits for mental health and wellbeing, especially following the pandemic. This agenda item request is for the consideration of a pump track facility in the borough, providing a quality leisure facility to groups that have been especially hard hit during the pandemic.
2. This paper will consider the potential for developing a pump track facility similar to the facility which was created in Gillingham in 2018. The paper would consider the costs associated with the scheme (it is understood from officers that the paved facility in Gillingham cost circa £170,000, although another option could be a lower cost dirt track), the benefits especially to the core target age group of early teens to twenty somethings.
3. The siting of the track would need careful consideration. Creating a facility near the route of the "Park and Cycle" scheme under consideration at SPI (with free parking and a designated route within the park from the Willington Street "Park and Ride" site to the cycle lane at Mote Avenue) could allow that facility to further develop into a leisure "Park and Play" opportunity. There may also be potential to increase footfall to other facilities at the park.
4. Security and/or supervision would be a consideration. While the availability of such a facility could have a positive effect on antisocial behaviour by providing an active outlet to the target age groups, it would be important to protect the facility from vandalism or modification and also to ensure it does not encourage antisocial motorcycling at the facility. Safety would also be a consideration out of hours.
5. As there is growing interest in developing a local pump track, the views of local youth groups and borough residents should be sought and considered.
6. The paper should consider the potential to secure funding from grant sources and other means.

Desired Outcome:

That Officers look into the merits of a "Pump Track" facility mentioned by Cllr Clark and bring a report to the next meeting of the Economic Regeneration and Leisure, setting out the options and recommendations for Members' consideration and decision.

Report Appendices

None